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Senate

The Senate met at 3 p.m. and was called to order by the President pro tempore (Mr. HATCH).

PRAYER

The Chaplain, Dr. Barry C. Black, offered the following prayer:

Let us pray.

Eternal Lord, You inspire us to joyfully resign to Your will, refusing to demand our own way.

Fill our lawmakers with patience, contentment, and peace. Provide them with interior humility, not just the outward form. Give them a spirit that enables them to be easily reconciled with others, determined to labor for the common good. May they remember to cast their cares on You, leaning on Your sustaining power. Use them to encourage and build up each other, striving always to accomplish the most good for the most people.

We pray in Your sacred Name. Amen.

PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

The President pro tempore led the Pledge of Allegiance, as follows:

I pledge allegiance to the Flag of the United States of America, and to the Republic for which it stands, one nation under God, indivisible, with liberty and justice for all.

RECOGNITION OF THE MAJORITY LEADER

The PRESIDING OFFICER (Mrs. ERNST). The majority leader is recognized.

MEASURE PLACED ON THE CALENDAR—S. 2200

Mr. MCCONNELL. Madam President, I understand there is a bill at the desk due for its second reading.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The clerk will read the bill by title for the second time.

The legislative clerk read as follows:

A bill (S. 2200) to amend the Fair Labor Standards Act of 1938 to strengthen equal pay requirements.

Mr. MCCONNELL. In order to place the bill on the calendar under the provisions of rule XIV, I object to further proceedings.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Objection is heard.

The bill will be placed on the calendar.

CYBERSECURITY INFORMATION SHARING BILL AND FISCAL NEGOTIATIONS

Mr. MCCONNELL. Madam President, last week Senators voted overwhelmingly to advance legislation that will help to protect the privacy of their constituents. Experts say the tools in the bipartisan cybersecurity bill the Senate voted to advance can help prevent future attacks through the sharing of information between the public and private sectors. The legislation's voluntary information sharing provisions are key to protecting the personal information of the people we all represent. The bill has also been carefully examined by Senators of both parties and contains important measures to protect civil liberties and individual privacy. I thank Chairman BURR and Vice Chairman FEINSTEIN of the Intelligence Committee for their hard work on the bipartisan bill.

We will consider a variety of amendments from both sides of the aisle tomorrow. After that, we can take a final vote on the underlying bill. That will be the Senate's initial focus this week. I will have more to say about it tomorrow.

In the meantime, we also know that fiscal negotiations are ongoing. As the details come in, and especially if an agreement is reached, I intend to consult and discuss the details with our colleagues.

I yield the floor.

RECOGNITION OF THE MINORITY LEADER

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The Democratic leader is recognized.

BUDGET NEGOTIATIONS

Mr. REID. Madam President, as the Republican leader mentioned, we continue to work toward a budget agreement. Negotiations are ongoing. I hope Democrats and Republicans will come to a resolution that is good for our economy and our country. It is imperative that we avoid yet another manufactured crisis that threatens the American economy and jobs. There is no reason to have a crisis. We must do it in a responsible manner.

As I have been saying for a long time, it is past time that we do away with the harmful, draconian sequester cuts. We must also ensure that there are equal defense and nondefense cuts or increases. They need to be equal.

Madam President, I see no one on the floor wishing to speak. I ask the Chair to announce the business of the rest of the day.

RESERVATION OF LEADER TIME

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Under the previous order, the leadership time is reserved.

MORNING BUSINESS

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Under the previous order, the Senate will be in a period of morning business, with Senators permitted to speak therein for up to 10 minutes each.

Mr. REID. Madam President, I suggest the absence of a quorum.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The clerk will call the roll.

The legislative clerk proceeded to call the roll.

Mr. KAIN. Madam President, I ask unanimous consent that the order for the quorum call be rescinded.

• This "bullet" symbol identifies statements or insertions which are not spoken by a Member of the Senate on the floor.



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The PRESIDING OFFICER. Without objection, it is so ordered.

PRESIDENTIAL FLAG AND SEAL ANNIVERSARY

Mr. KAINE. Madam President, I rise today to commemorate an important but largely unheralded anniversary. Seventy years ago yesterday, President Harry Truman changed the design of the Presidential flag and seal. That moment, which is a small moment in the grand scope of American history, was nevertheless very symbolic. I would like to discuss it.

First, some context on President Truman. Truman was a great wartime President. He fought bravely in World War I in France, and then he had to make very momentous decisions at the close of World War II. Some would argue, and I think properly, that the decision on whether to use atomic weapons at Hiroshima and Nagasaki might have been the single most momentous decision ever made by a President. He wasn't even aware of the Manhattan Project and the development of the atomic weapons program until FDR died in April of 1945 and within a very few months had to make the decision whether to use those weapons against Japan.

Nobody would question or challenge whether Harry Truman was a softy. In fact, even after World War II, in March of 1947, America was war-weary, but he went to Congress and in an address to Congress said that we need to continue to provide military and economic support to nations that are battling against Soviet influence. In this case, it was the nations of Greece and Turkey. That began the Truman doctrine, the basic strategic principle whereby the United States, for the next 40 years, would sort of check off efforts by the Soviet Union to expand their influence. Harry Truman was a great wartime President.

Harry Truman did something on October 25, 1945, that was most unusual. He called the press into his office and said: Look what I have done. He unveiled the fact that he had taken the seal and flag of the Presidency of the United States and redesigned them. That design is essentially the same today with the exception that two stars were added for the States of Alaska and Hawaii that came in after the Truman Presidency.

The seal of the President, as everybody knows—if we look around the Chamber, we can see some up on the wall here—was originally an eagle, and the eagle has two claws. In one set of claws the eagle is grasping the arrows of war, and in the other set of claws, the eagle is grasping the olive branches of peace and diplomacy. Prior to the Truman Presidency, the eagle faced toward the arrows of war. Harry Truman, this great wartime President, changed the seal so the olive branches of diplomacy would be in the right claw, the sort of preserved position, and the

eagle would be facing toward the olive branches. When he did this he said: "This new flag faces the eagle toward the staff, which is looking to the front all of the time when you are on the march, and also has it looking at the olive branch for peace, instead of the arrows of war." Truman biographer David McCullough stated that Truman meant the shift in the eagle's gaze to be seen as symbolic of a nation that was on the march and dedicated to peace and diplomacy.

Significantly, right around the same time President Truman did something else that was notable and symbolical. He renamed the Department we think of as the Pentagon from the Department of War to the Department of Defense, also symbolic of the Nation's postwar dedication to peace.

While we want to be the strongest—and we are the strongest military nation in the world, as the Presiding Officer knows so very well—we want to always suggest to the world that our interest is not primarily war; no, our interest is peace and prosperity for all.

We always have to preserve and advance America's military strength because we know the connection. Sometimes the better your military strength, the more successful you can be diplomatically, but it is also the case that the strength of your diplomacy can also add to the credibility of your military might.

I wish to talk quickly about the olive branches of peace and diplomacy and then the arrows of war. America has a great diplomatic tradition. Let's talk about recent Presidential history. President Truman went to Congress and said: Let's spend, in today's dollars, tens of billions of dollars to rebuild the economies of Japan and Germany, the two nations that had been at war against the United States. Germany had been engaged in two wars with the United States in the previous 30 years. Japan had invaded the United States at Pearl Harbor, but President Truman said: Tomorrow is more important than yesterday. Let's spend dollars to rebuild these economies. It was controversial when he proposed it, but the Marshall Plan ended up being one of the most successful things the United States has done from a foreign policy perspective.

Right after the Cuban Missile Crisis of 1962, President Kennedy engaged in negotiations with the Soviet Union to reduce the nuclear threat, and the result was an agreement in 1963 to ban atmospheric nuclear tests, the Nuclear Test Ban Treaty.

President Reagan was actively engaged in trying to undermine the power of the Soviet Union and communism, but during those very vigorous and aggressive activities, he was also negotiating with the Soviet Union on arms control agreements. Probably the paramount example of that during the Reagan Presidency was the Intermediate-Range Nuclear Forces Treaty in 1987 that he successfully negotiated.

I happen to believe that history is going to judge the recent Iran nuclear deal in the same way. It is an effort to make tomorrow more important than yesterday and to find—even in the midst of significant challenges between the United States and Iran—a way to reduce nuclear tension. Diplomacy is always a judgment where we should try to let go some of the baggage of the past and see if we can find a better way to tomorrow.

I am a little bit worried that the Truman legacy of putting peace and diplomacy first is fraying in this body and maybe nationally. I hope by bringing to mind this anniversary today, it will remind us of our great diplomatic history and the power of our diplomatic principles. A number of times in recent years we have seen bits of evidence of a fraying commitment to diplomacy in this Chamber, in my view.

One of the great Truman institutions was the International Monetary Fund which was designed to help nations work together on economic and monetary policy issues. It is a great global institution. When you set up an institution like that in the 1940s, the challenge is that when new nations emerge and rise, how do you incorporate nations that are newly powerful into the Fund? The most recent and challenging example has been the nation of China. As China has gotten more and more important, there were many who advised us to bring China more closely into the Fund so they could assist nations throughout the world, but Congress refused to change the bylaws of the IMF to give China proportionate responsibility given its population and the strength of its economy. What did China do after we would not change the bylaws to allow them a proportionate place at the table? China established their own development bank completely separate from the IMF.

There is a debate going on right now in Congress about whether we should reauthorize the Ex-Im Bank—now, this dates back to FDR's Presidency—a premier institution that helps American companies find export markets abroad. Again, it is part of our broad diplomatic effort in outreach, and suddenly it is controversial after 80 years.

There are a number of U.N. treaties that we could profitably advance our interests on. The U.N. Convention on the Law of the Sea, if the United States had ratified that, we would have an additional diplomatic tool to challenge Chinese island building in the South China Sea.

The U.N. treaty on the rights of women and on the rights of those with disabilities are treaties that would, frankly, reflect American values and American principles because we are the leaders in the world in these areas, and yet we will not ratify these treaties.

The prospect of trade deals is much less popular in Congress than they were 15 years ago. Trade is going to happen, the question is whether the United States will play a leadership